

YABE et al.

Appl. No. 10/021,436

Response to Office Action dated March 15, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An acoustic apparatus comprising:
one or more front speakers disposed at front side in a space for outputting a first audio signal;
one or more rear speakers disposed at rear side in the space for outputting a second audio signal;
a volume control device for controlling main volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal;
a balance control device for attenuating one of a first volume level indicating volume level of the first audio signal and a second volume level indicating volume level of the second audio signal and for maintaining or increasing the other one of the first volume level and the second volume level to be at the main volume level; and
a control device,
wherein, in a state that the balance control device attenuates the one of the first volume level and the second volume level by a predetermined amount from the main volume level, when an external audio signal is supplied to the speaker or speakers outputting the audio signal corresponding to the other one of the first volume level and the second volume level which has not been attenuated by the balance control device and the balance control device attenuates the other one of the first volume level and the second volume level from the main volume level, the control device attenuates the main volume level to the one of the first volume level and the second volume level attenuated by the balance control device and maintains the one of the first volume level and the second volume level at the attenuated main volume level.

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Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the other one of the first volume level and the second volume level is attenuated from the main volume level to a minimum level.

Claim 3 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the minimum level comprises a zero level.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a mute instruction unit for detecting a mute instruction inputted by a user, wherein the control device controls the volume control device to attenuate the volume levels of the audio signals when the mute instruction is detected by the mute instruction unit.

Claim 5 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the volume control device sets the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to the volume levels before the external audio signal is supplied, when supply of the external audio signal ends.

Claim 6 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control device comprises:

a storage unit for storing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal before the external audio signal is inputted;

a readout unit for reading out the volume levels stored in the storage unit when the supply of the external audio signal ends; and

a changing unit for changing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to be the volume levels readout by the readout unit.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by receiving a signal indicating the supply of the external audio signal.

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Claim 8 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by monitoring the external audio signal supplied to the speaker.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device attenuates the volume levels of the first and the second audio signals to the volume level of the other one of the front speaker and the rear speaker to which the external audio signal is not supplied.